

'roll' or 'rattle' (corresponding to the alarm call) are doubtless important in specific recognition, although this call may be made during relief at the nest (Goodwin 1969). The trill and the short unmodulated note are in the category of contact calls, and can be utilised in the song (cf. Payne 1973: 88). There is no answer to the question whether, in fact, the difference of rhythm of the trill and above all the use of well separated frequencies, constitute parameters of specific acoustic recognition.

Thus we continue to consider *bruneli* as a well marked geographical race of *L. rhodopareia*. The important differences in colour and voice show that it is an old isolate, perhaps suitably regarded as a semispecies.

*Acknowledgement:* We are indebted to C. W. Benson for translating our manuscript.

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## Further notes on uncommon forest birds in Ghana

by M. A. Macdonald

Received 24 October 1979

Macdonald & Taylor (1977) described the occurrence of several rare or little known birds in forest habitats in Ghana. The notes below, which are based mainly on work done between September 1977 and July 1978, supplement the earlier observations. Co-ordinates for the places mentioned are shown in Table 1.

CASSINAETUS AFRICANUS Cassin's Hawk-eagle. On 17 Nov 1977 an adult was apparently incubating on the nest found in the previous December in the Pra Suhien Forest Reserve (Macdonald & Taylor 1977). An active colony of White-naped Weavers *Ploceneus albinucha* surrounded the nest. The other adult eagle perched in the open in nearby trees, often close to the observer, showing little sign of alarm. Occasionally it called a rather weak cracked

'tcheea' and a loud 'whi whi whi whoi' repeated thrice, both calls of similar quality to calls of the Allied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*. When a pair of Crowned Eagles *Stephanoaetus coronatus* soared high over the nest, the perched bird rose and saw them off. When the nest was next visited on 17 December, no eagles were seen and the weavers had deserted their colony. The eagles were not seen on subsequent monthly visits, the last of which was on 24 June 1978.

TABLE I

Co-ordinates and brief descriptions of places in Ghana named in the text

Place	Co-ordinates	Description
Ankasa G.P.R.	5° 13' N, 2° 39' W	Primary forest
Ejinase	5° 15' N, 1° 30' W	Cocoa farm
Pra Suhien F.R.	5° 19' N, 1° 24' W	Closed secondary forest
Kakum F.R.	5° 20' N, 1° 22' W	Closed secondary forest
Aduamoia F.R.	6° 42' N, 0° 46' W	Closed secondary forest
Amedzofe	6° 52' N, 0° 28' E	Mixed habitats on forest-savanna boundary

G.P.R. = Game production reserve. F.R. = Forest reserve

AGAPORNIS SWINDERNIANA Black-collared Lovebird. Two additional records were obtained of birds flying over the canopy at Kakum F.R. on 26 Jan 1978 (3 birds) and at Pra Suhien F.R. on 7 April 1978 (1 bird).

MELIGNOMON sp. Honeyguide. A single bird resembling the unnamed species known from Cameroun and Liberia (Snow 1978) was seen at about 5 m range in Kakum F.R. on 2 Oct 1977. The slender but not exceptionally fine bill identified it as *Melignomon*. In size it was similar to the Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*, thus differing from the similarly plumaged Honeyguide Bulbul *Baeopogon indicator* (larger) and Cassin's Honey-guide *Prodotiscus insignis* (smaller) which occurred in the same forest. Above, it was dark olive. Head and underparts were pale smoky grey. The tail was white with obvious dark tips to the rather broad feathers. The eye was dark. Bill and leg colour were not noted. The bird was skulking in a small tree (? *Trema*) about 3 m above the ground.

APALIS SHARPEI Sharpe's Apalis. The call of this species was recognised in December 1977 as a quiet but far-carrying 'pirit pirit pirit . . .', the stress falling on the first syllable. Subsequent sight and aural records confirmed that the species was common in forest reserves, although more often heard than seen. New locality records were at Ankasa Game production Reserve, Ejinase, Pra Suhien F.R. and Aduamoia F.R.

REMIZ FLAVIFRONS Forest Penduline Tit. This species, apparently rare in the Upper Guinea forests (Hall & Moreau 1970), is the subject of a puzzling observation. It was seen first on 12 June 1977, when at least 30 were feeding in the low foliage and among the debris of old weaver-ant *Oecophylla* sp. nests in Kakum F.R. They were scattered singly or in groups of 2-3 birds. On 15 June only 2 were seen, and on 19 June none was recorded even after a careful search of the upper foliage. The species was not seen again.

NIGRITA LUTEIFRONS Pale-fronted Negro-finch. Two birds, behaving as a pair, were seen foraging in low secondary growth on the edge of a farm among partly cleared forest at Amedzofe on 3 June 1978. The species is listed by Serle *et al.* (1977) as occurring in Ghana, but I have found no other reference to its presence west of Nigeria.

*Acknowledgements:* I am grateful to Mr. A. Forbes-Watson for discussion of the honeyguide record, and to Prof. P. G. Jarvis who kindly provided facilities at the University of Edinburgh where the paper was prepared.

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## IN BRIEF

## Ornithology in the Malagasy Faunal Region

In my article 'Fifty years of ornithology in the Malagasy Faunal Region' (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 1980: 100(1): 76-80) I omitted mention in the last paragraph under *Madagascar* of any publication in *Arnoldia* (*Rhod.*). Two containing significant information, both by M. P. Stuart Irwin and myself, are: 5(33), 1972, dealing with *Pachycoccyx audeberti*; and 7(17), 1975, in which the genus *Crossleyia* is resuscitated and returned to the Timaliidae from the Pycnonotidae.

28 April 1980

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Dunlin *Calidris alpina* breeding in China

Voous (1960) describes the breeding distribution of Dunlin *Calidris alpina* as almost circum-polarly holarctic, the most southerly breeding area being the British Isles. Occasionally, however, Dunlin breed further south than this. Abel Chapman shot a bird off a C/4 at Jerez de la Frontera, Andalucia, Spain on 24 April 1872. This clutch is in the Seebohm collection at the British Museum (Natural History) Tring (reg.no. 1901.1.1.5002-5-M. Walters, pers.comm.) and was recorded by Seebohm (1888).

In China, the Dunlin is not regarded as a breeding species (Cheng 1976 and pers.comm.). Jones (1911) however suggested that Dunlin may breed in the locality of Wei Hai Wei (Shantung peninsula), although proof of this has been lacking. A series of Dunlin skins from the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, was examined by me which included a pullus obtained at Tsingtao, Shantung on 7 May 1927 by Rufus H. Lefevre (reg. no. 108004). P. J. Morgan (National Museum of Wales) and I estimated the pullus to be about 2½-3 weeks old and incapable of flight. R. M. de Schauensee (Academy of Natural Sciences) assures me that the specimen label is reliable, so that there can be no doubt as to the authenticity of the specimen.

*Acknowledgements:* I am indebted to the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia for the loan of specimens.

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25 January 1980

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